State of Montana
Office of the Governor

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Executive Order No. 14-95

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE
WHIRLING DISEASE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Montana's wild and native trout fisheries constitute a priceless component of Montana's natural heritage and a significant component of the state's economic foundation; and

WHEREAS, whirling disease, a parasitic disease of salmonids caused by *Myxobolus cerebralis*, presents the single greatest threat to the long-term survival of Montana's wild and native trout; and

WHEREAS, whirling disease has now been found in 16 trout waters in Montana; and

WHEREAS, whirling disease is likely, over time, to spread to every river drainage in Montana where both wild trout and *Tubificid* worms, the parasite's intermediate host, are found; and

WHEREAS, while significant progress has been made over the last year, there is still much learn about whirling

disease, its impacts on wild trout, and how to manage in its presence; and

WHEREAS, the Whirling Disease Task Force has successfully established a public-private partnership; and

WHEREAS, a public-private partnership is critical to the successful implementation of the Task Force's long-term recommendations; and

WHEREAS, by the actions of the Whirling Disease Task Force, the State of Montana is establishing a model with which other states can attack the whirling disease problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me by 2-15-122, MCA, do hereby continue the Governor's Whirling Disease Task Force.

I. PURPOSE

The Whirling Disease Task Force shall:

A. Define the roles and responsibilities of the various members of the public-private partnership in implementing the Task Force's recommendations;

B. Recommend the financial commitments that must be made by private and public partners to achieve the Task Force's recommendations, ensuring that needs for the next few years are met while the capacity to meet longer term needs is being developed;

C. Evaluate whether an organization currently exists or a new organization is needed to bring private financial

and other resources into the partnership; and

D. Evaluate the need for and feasibility of establishing a council, advisory committee or other body to oversee implementation of Task Force's recommendations upon termination of this Executive Order.

II. COMPOSITION

The Whirling Disease Task Force shall be composed of not more than 25 members. The names and addresses of members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor are submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State.

The Whirling Disease Task Force may recommend additional members to the Governor if necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Executive Order,

III. DURATION

This Task Force shall remain in existence until October 1, 1996, unless extended or terminated by subsequent Executive Order. This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 20th day of December 1995.

Marc Racicot

MARC RACICOT, Governor

ATTEST:

Mike Cooney

MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State